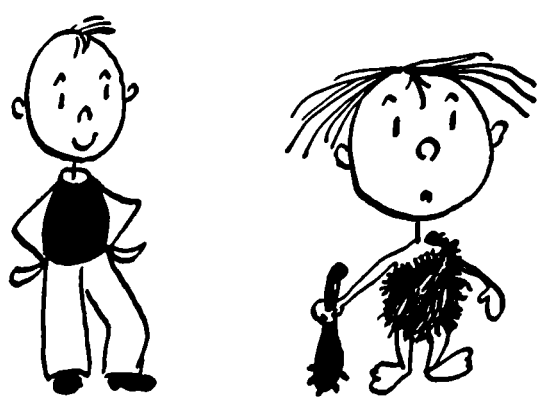
Lucky You

Munro Leaf

LUCKY YOU

BY

MUNRO LEAF



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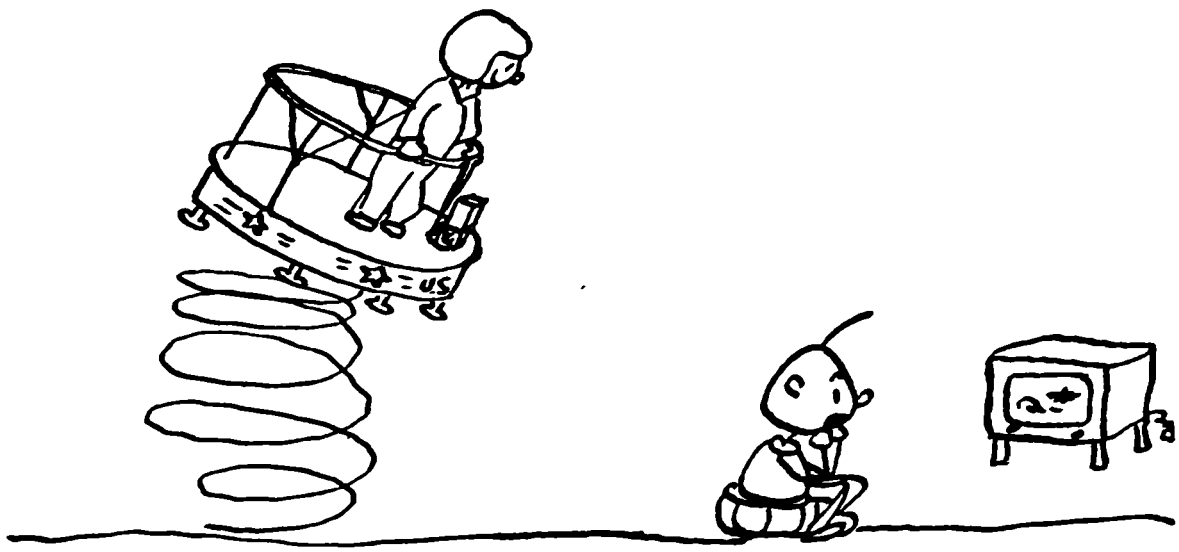


This is a book about things that are real.

Some boys and girls who watch movies or television or read comics get excited about space ships, ray guns and "sooper-dooper" gadgets that are supposed to do all kinds of things in a world of make-believe.

If we just open our eyes once in a while and see the truly wonderful and amazing inventions, discoveries and machines that are working all around us in the real world, we can find enough interest and excitement to last us for a lifetime.

Most of us are so used to expecting things to be easy and comfortable that we forget that people like ourselves had to think and learn and work to make our lives pleasant.

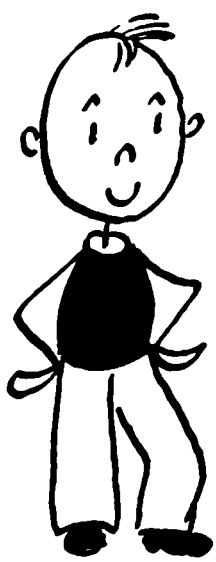
Men and women, who were once boys and girls like us, worked together to find out the truth and to KNOW instead of just GUESS about all sorts of things. We call that kind of study and knowing facts

SCIENCE

and you and I are very lucky people to live in a world where science has done so much for us.

To get a good idea of what SCIENCE has done over hundreds of years to make your life a better one, let's look at some pictures of two different people.

One of them is UGH who lived in a cave long ago when people had learned almost nothing.



UGH

The other
we call

YOUNOW

and though he is a boy in the pictures, everything that is true of him would be just as true of a girl YOUNOW.

To tell the truth, YOUNOW
might as well be

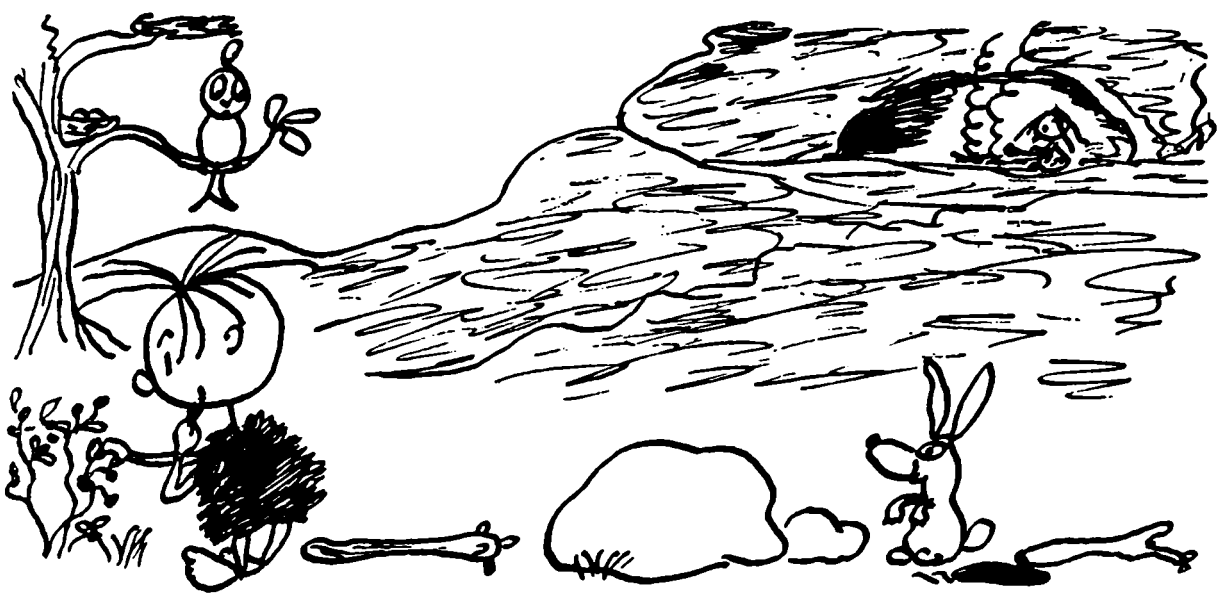
YOU

UGH had to have food to stay alive.

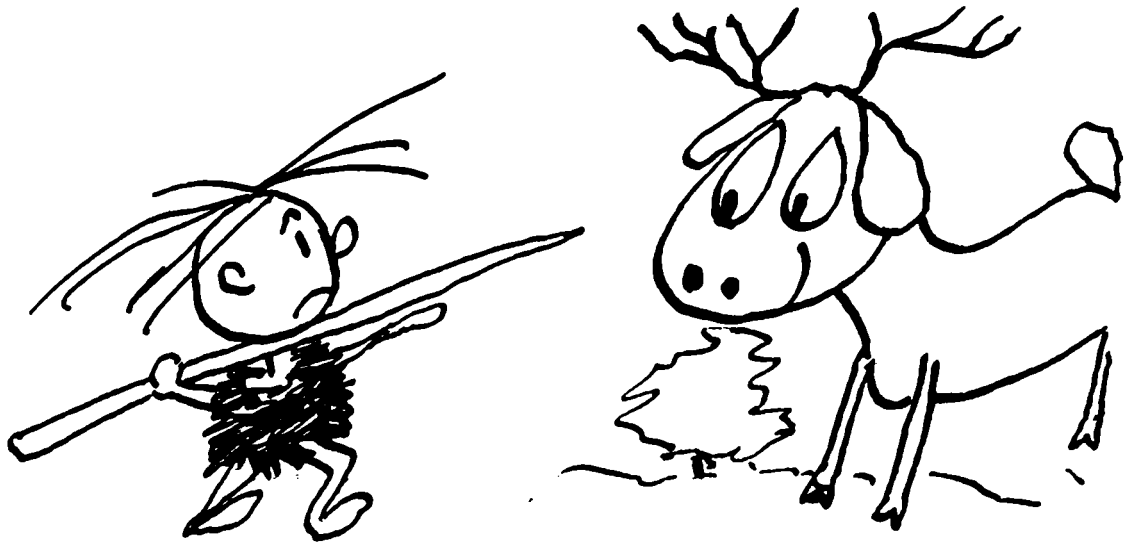
His food had to be (just as yours does today) something that had been alive—animal or plant life of some sort.

He, or somebody who helped him, had to catch the animals or find the plants somewhere fairly near home.

If he had gone too far away for them, UGH himself might have been caught by an animal who also was looking for something to eat.

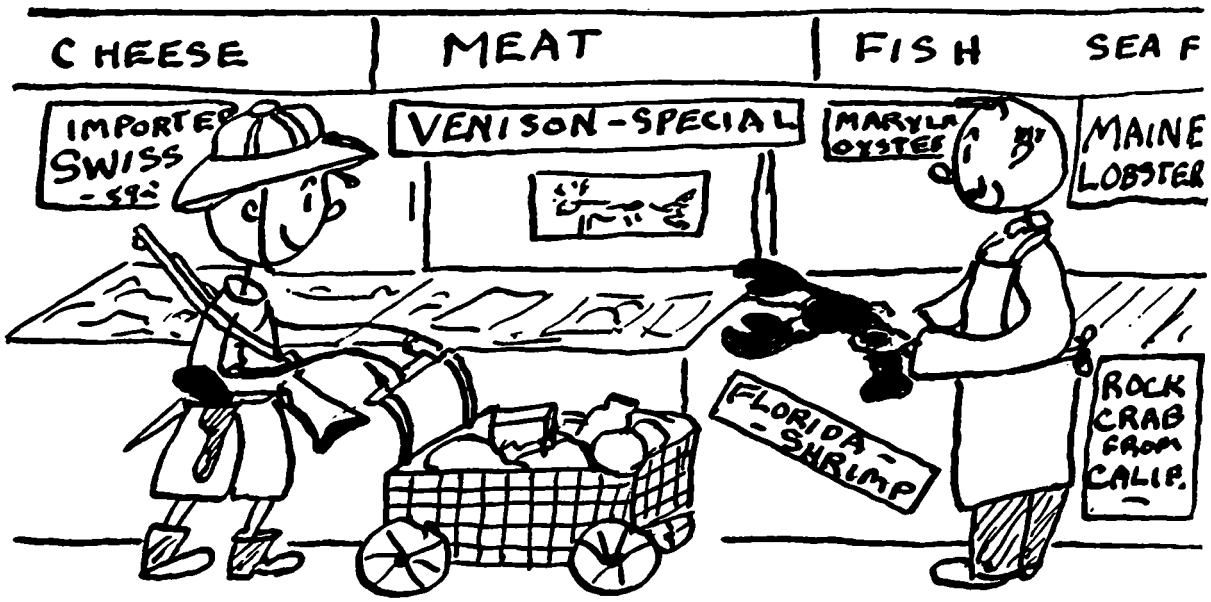


He had no weapons except a club or stone and maybe a wooden spear. Nobody had yet invented a bow and arrow.



He couldn't be very sure when he would find roots or berries, nuts, birds' eggs or bugs to eat, because people hadn't learned just when winter, summer, or spring or fall would come. They had not learned how to know the seasons or to tell time.

If his food was cooked at all, it was partly burned over a wood fire. If UGH wanted to stay alive, he had to have water somewhere near his home. Animals drank his water, too, so he had to be very careful. Sometimes the water was muddy and impure and sometimes it made UGH sick.



YOUNOW has to eat and drink too, but he, or those who help him, don't have to hunt any farther away from home than the nearest super market. Science has made it easier to have plant life and animal life where people want them.

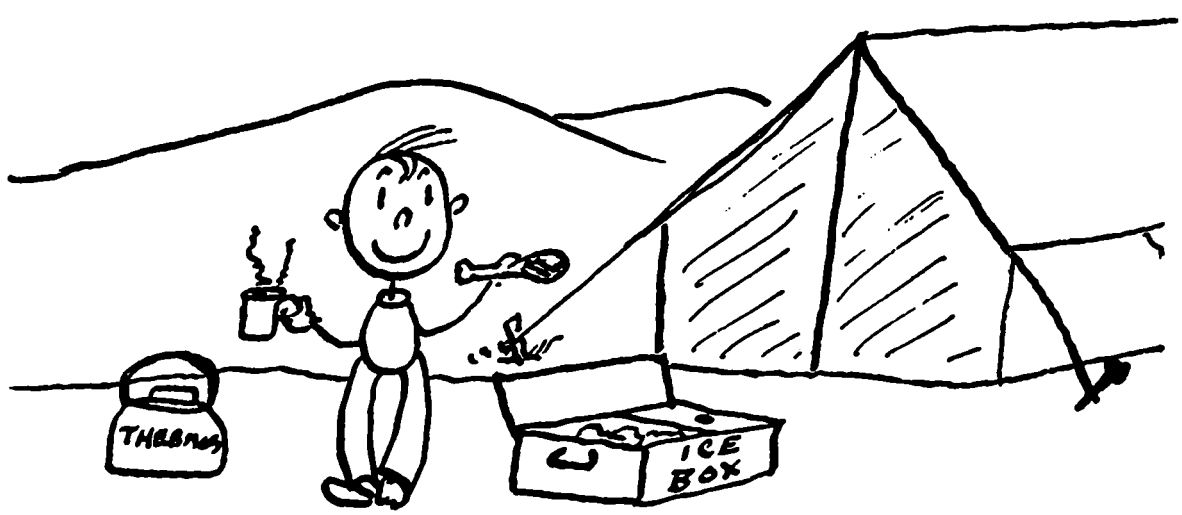
We know how to grow good grass for cows to eat. When we have raised the cows we can drink their milk or use it to make cheese, butter, ice cream or other good things. We can also eat beef. Until people had learned how to farm and raise animals, they could not do this.

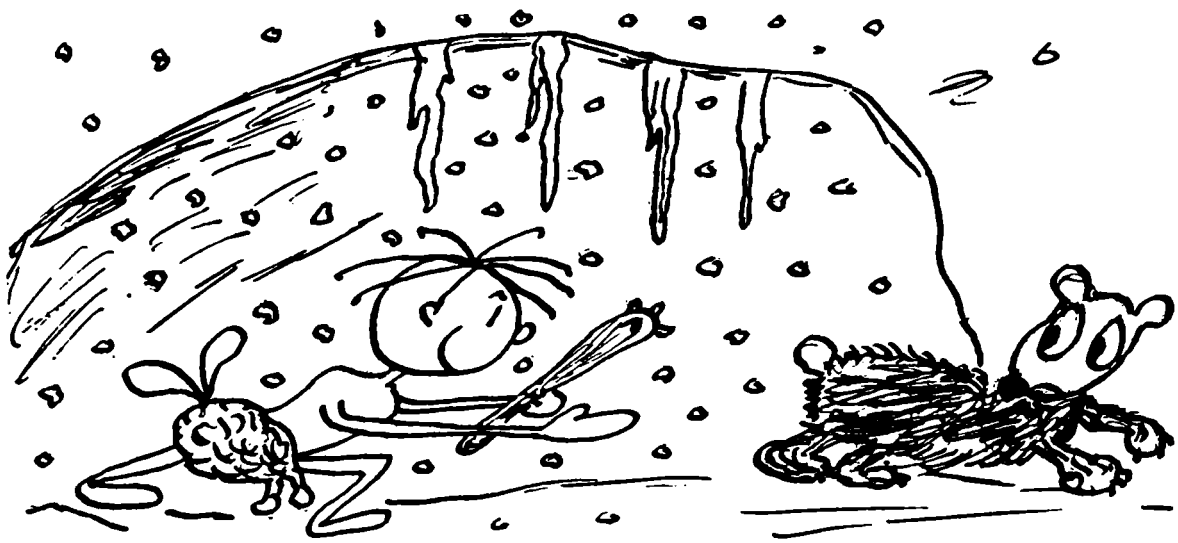
YOUNOW can buy at a store food that was raised all over

the world—even birds that flew in the sky and fish that swam in the sea thousands of miles from his home. He can buy his food fresh, frozen, dried, canned or already cooked.

His mother can cook his food on a stove that uses oil, coal, wood, gas or electricity.

If he is thirsty he only has to turn a faucet to get pure water. He can go to the refrigerator and find his milk and meat and vegetables fresh. When he and his family go on a trip they take things to eat and drink in thermos bottles and special containers that keep the food good for a long, long time.





What about UGH's clothes? In the days before scientists discovered how to make the thousands of different materials we now use, UGH and his friends wore skins of animals.

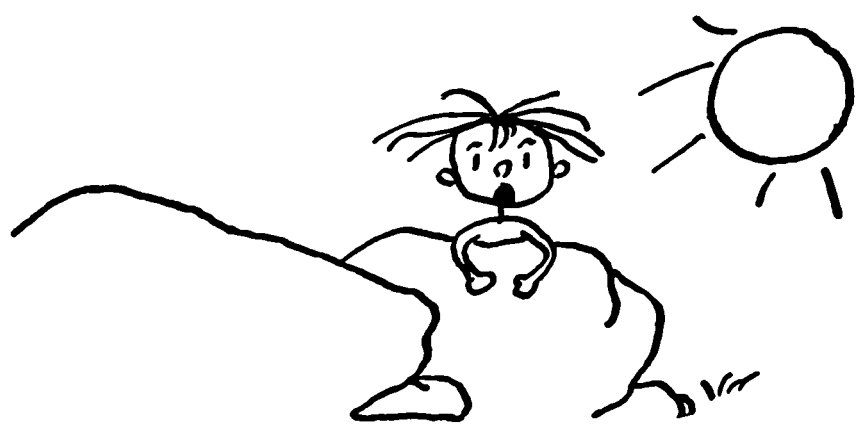
In the picture above we can see UGH trying to catch a new winter suit for himself, because the rabbit skin he had been wearing all fall was getting to be a little too chilly for comfort.

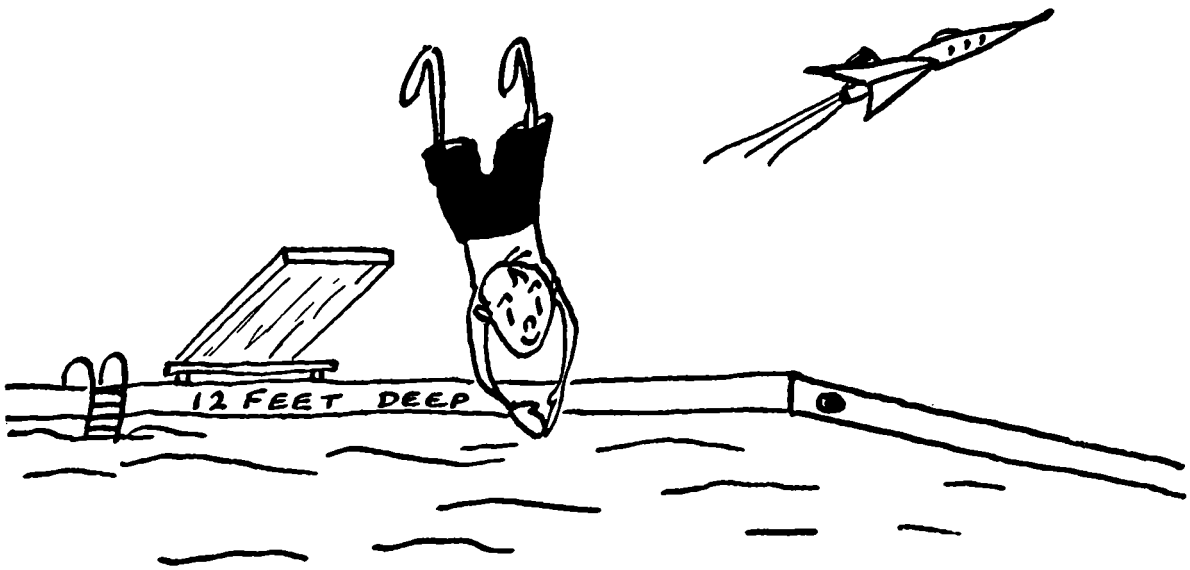
When UGH was lucky enough to get a good, warm animal skin, it had to last him for a long, long time. In fact, you can bet that he probably didn't take it off all winter. You can

imagine how stiff, greasy and dirty that one piece of clothing would be after a while.

UGH had no stockings, socks or underwear and no shoes. Going barefooted is sometimes fun in summer but just try running through the woods without shoes in January and see how you like it.

When it was hot, the chances are that UGH didn't wear any clothes at all. If he wanted to dress up for a party at a neighbor's cave, perhaps he wore around his neck a thin strip of hide decorated with the teeth of animals that he had chewed before they could chew him.





Let's think for a while about the clothes YOUNOW and the rest of us have today, because scientists have learned how to help us.

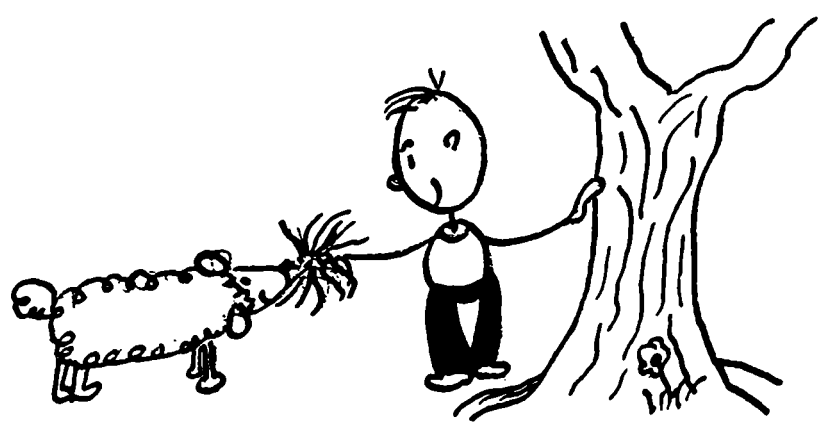
YOUNOW, in the picture, is wearing a pair of swimming trunks that could be made out of many different kinds of cloth. They are light, cool, and they dry much more quickly than poor old UGH's animal skins would if he swam in them.

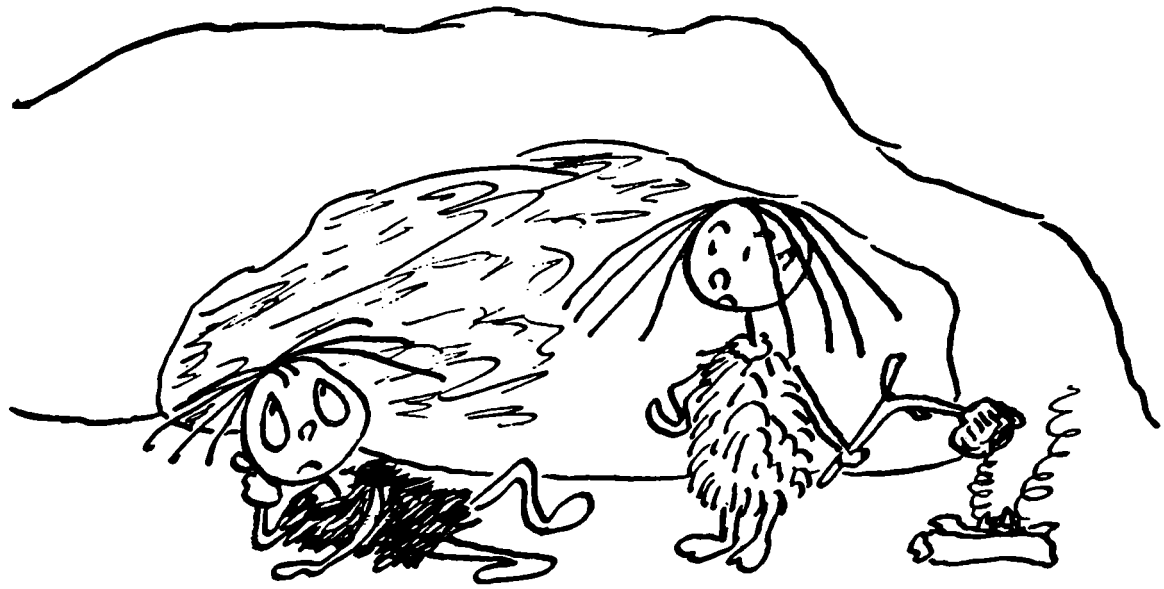
Just as YOUNOW takes a dive into the water a jet or rocket plane shoots off into the sky. Before it lands it will go very high where the temperature is below freezing. YOUNOW's uncle is the pilot of that plane and he can be just as comfortable up there as YOUNOW is in the swimming pool, because he is dressed in a wonderful suit that is heated by electricity.

YOUNOW's mother sometimes wears a fur coat made from animal skins, but it stays soft and clean because it has been treated with chemicals that UGH's mother never knew about.

In the picture down below, YOUNOW is feeding grass to a sheep because he is thankful for the sheep's wool that was used to make YOUNOW's coat last year. The sheep is thankful, too, because he didn't have to be killed to make the coat.

YOUNOW should be thankful to the tree in the picture, too, because it is now possible to make YOUNOW's shirt or pants out of wood. In fact we have learned how to make him a suit from the grass he is feeding the sheep—or from milk or glass or rocks like asbestos.





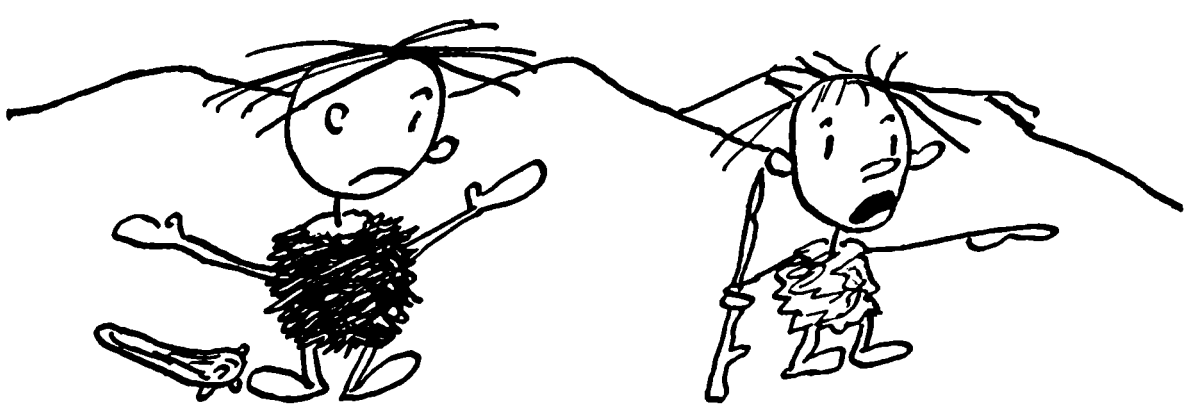
Here is UGH looking pretty sad. His mother was so bothered about his unhappiness that she is cooking for him a nice piece of tiger meat to make him feel more cheerful. UGH was sad because he was thinking about his home in the cave. It wasn't a bad cave, but it sometimes was awfully cold, damp, dark, smoky, dirty and smelly. What upset UGH even more was that this was the only place he could stay and be at all safe. He probably lived in just that one place all his life. Maybe when he grew up he found a cave like it nearby but that wasn't much of a change.

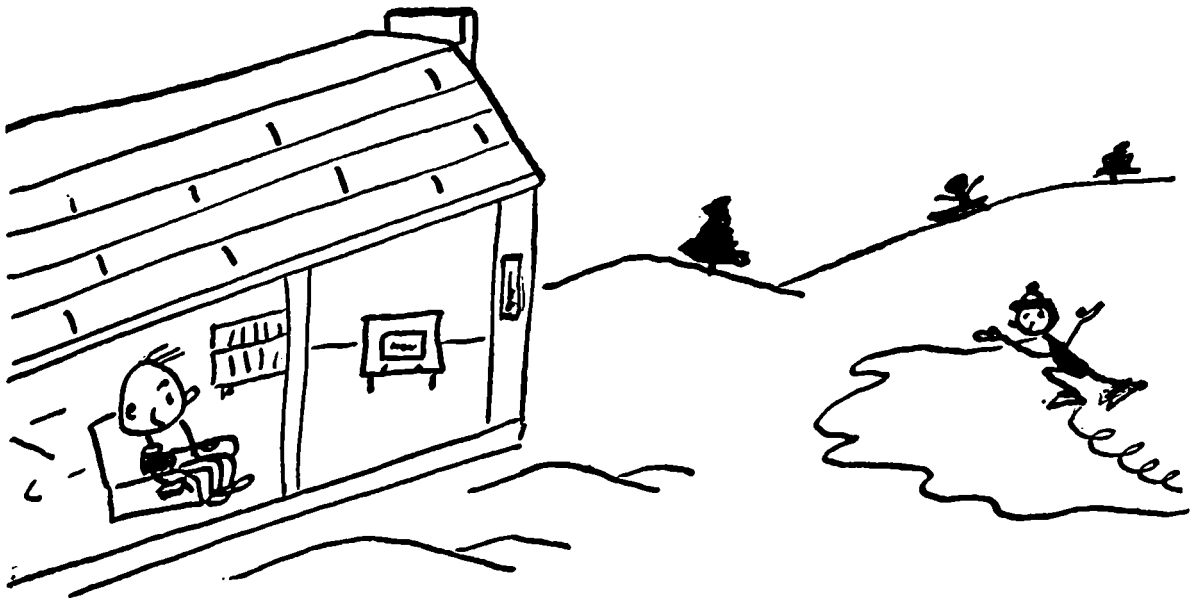
He didn't dare go far away for a vacation, because he

might not have found another cave where he was going, and nobody knew how to build a house.

How would he shelter himself from the rain and snow? How would he keep warm in the winter months? He might have tried to make a shelter out of piled up stones or broken trees, but how would he make them hold together when the wind blew hard or a big beast tried to tear them apart? Remember UGH had only a few sticks and sharp stones for tools. No one had LEARNED that certain "stones" could be melted to make metal, and that metal could be made into saws, axes, hammers and nails.

No wonder we see UGH in this picture below telling his friend that it is dangerous to go far from their cave home!



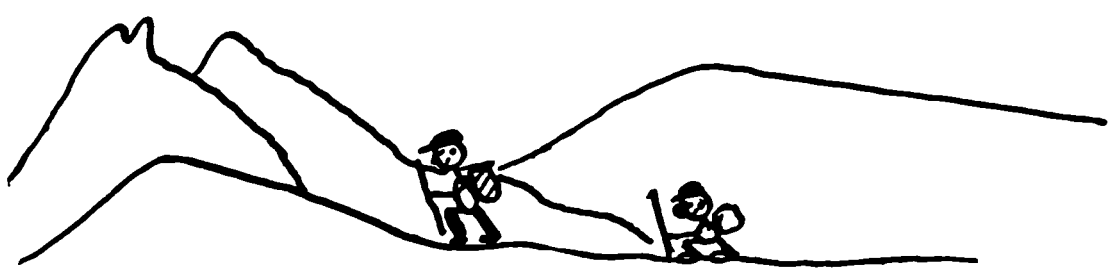


Last Christmas vacation a photograph was taken of YOUNOW at his grandfather's house. He was warm and cozy even though he didn't have a coat on. Through the window, he watched his cousins skating and coasting. Since UGH's day people had studied hard and learned to make this possible.

YOUNOW's grandfather's house is a thousand miles from YOUNOW's home, but he went there safely and quickly. He knew before he left that he would be sure to find water and food and heat when he got there. And he knew that even though there was ice and snow outside, and the temperature was below freezing, his grandfather's oil furnace would keep the house

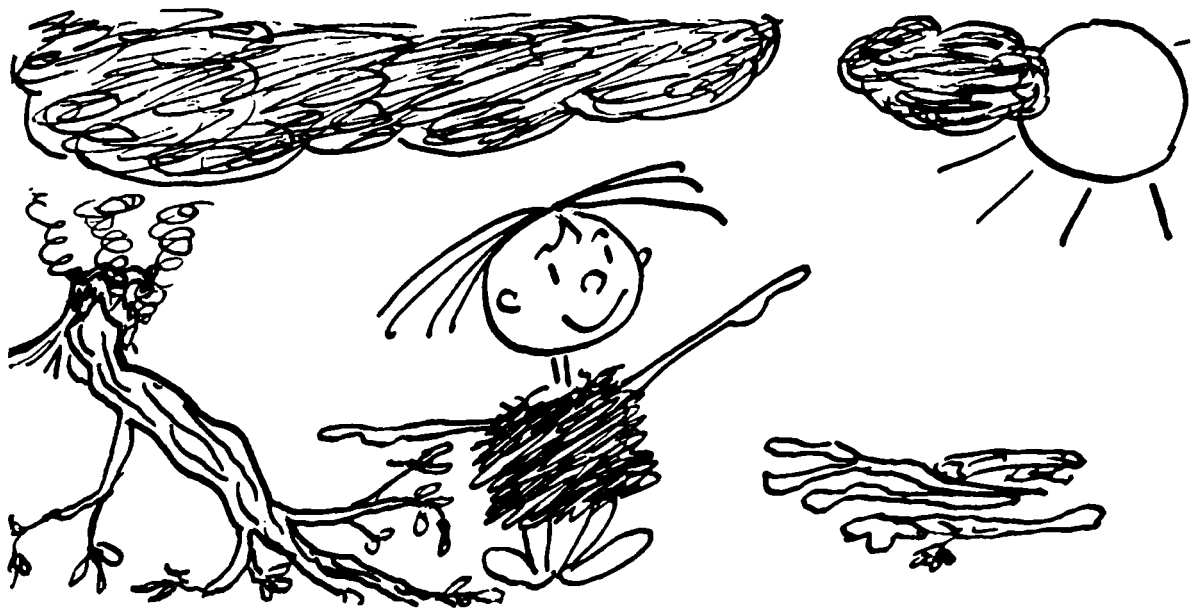
warm without making it dirty, smelly or smoky. He knew the house would stand up and its roof would stay on even if the wind did blow, and he didn't have to be afraid of any beast's knocking it down.

While he sat looking out a big, glass window he thought about a summer trip with his father. They were going to the mountains on a fishing trip. Thanks to what people had learned, they planned to live in a waterproof tent that was so light that YOUNOW could carry it on his back. If the weather was too bad, they could stay in a comfortable cabin as long as they wanted.



They had thought that perhaps they might go in their car and take a house along with them—a trailer that would have heat, light, beds, a stove and a supply of good food so they wouldn't be hungry even if they did not catch any fish.

Here we see our friend UGH being thankful. He is thankful that he has fire to keep him warm and to give a little light in his cave. His mother can cook their dinner over the fire and UGH won't have to eat raw meat. When the fire goes out UGH and his family have to start it again by rubbing two sticks



together or striking a spark from two flint stones. Either way is hard on a cold wet day.

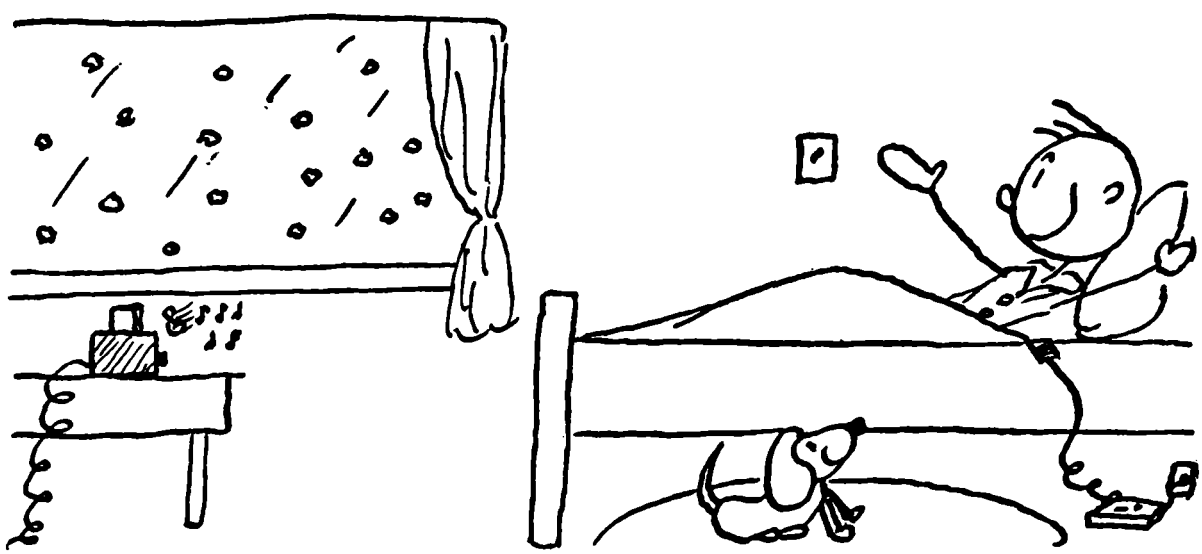
UGH had lighted the fire in this picture from a burning tree that had been struck by lightning. He did not know that the lightning was made of electricity and that some day people would learn to do wonderful things with it.

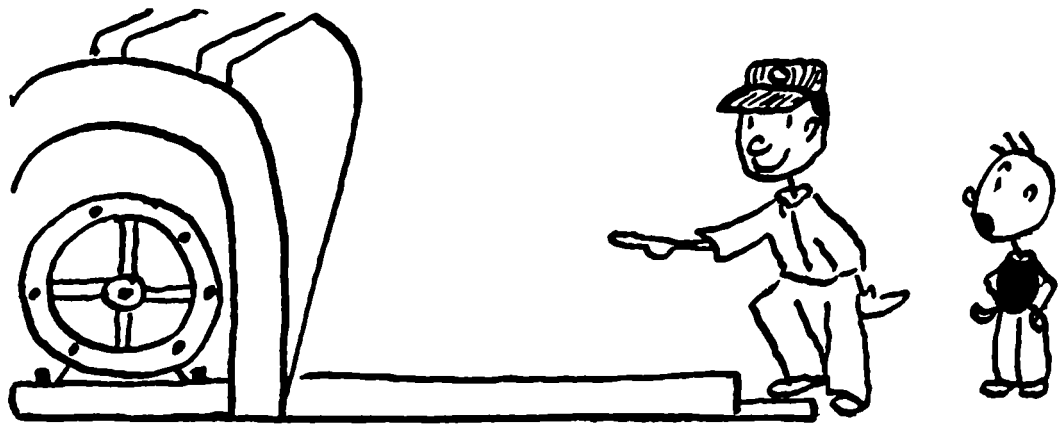
Now let's have a look at lucky YOUNOW.

He has just waked up. It is a cold, snowy morning outside, but he slept under an electric blanket. His room is just the right temperature because a furnace downstairs heats the water or air that runs through pipes to all parts of his house.

It is daylight now, but even in the middle of the night YOUNOW could have made it light as day in his room by just clicking that little light button beside his bed.

SCIENTISTS have found out for us how to make electricity

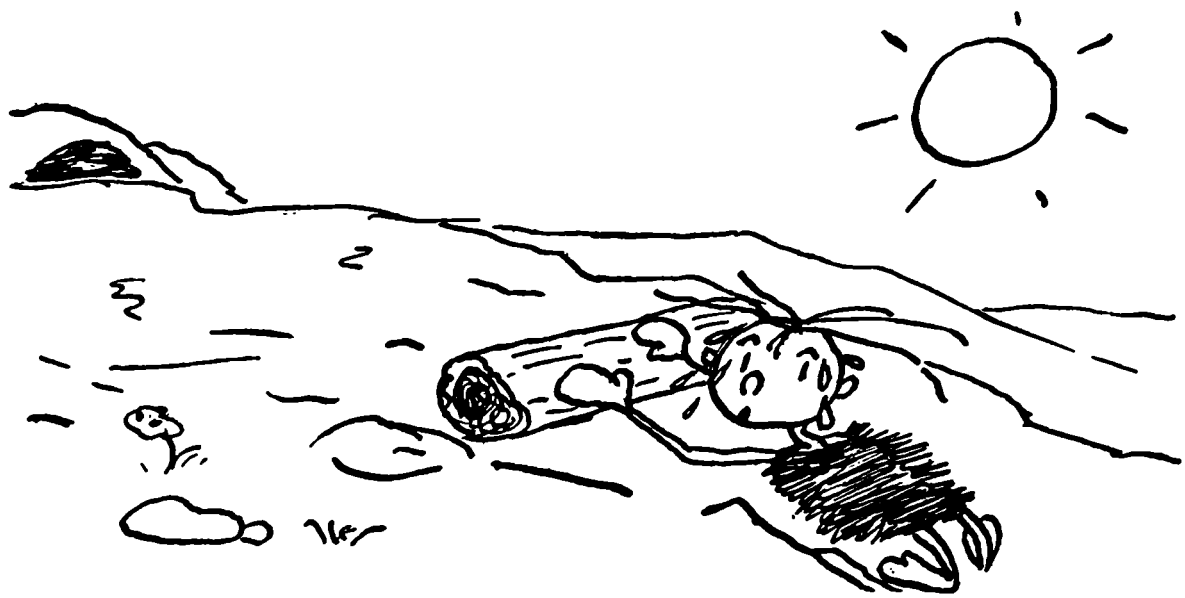




work for us all the time in lots of ways. Poor UGH's thunder storm could only knock down trees and burn them.

On the table in YOUNOW's room is a clock-radio that runs by electricity, so this lucky boy can be waked by music at exactly the time in the morning he wants.

YOUNOW once went to visit a power station where the electricity comes from that is used in his house. The man who showed him the big generators that make electricity for the whole city told him that water power or coal or gas or oil could be used to make them run.



If you want to feel sorry for someone, take a look at poor old UGH trying to push a log up to his cave.

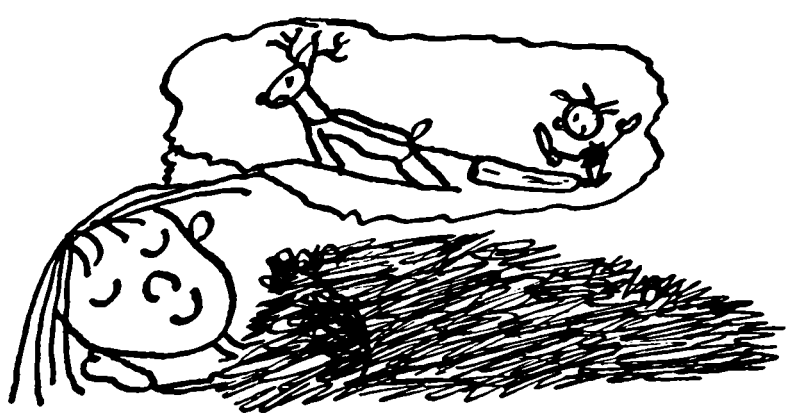
Just think of the things that we know now that would have helped him and made his work easier! We have learned so much from other people who have figured things out for us, that any one of us could tell UGH that he ought to get a wagon. We know that his heavy log would move easily if he put it on wheels.

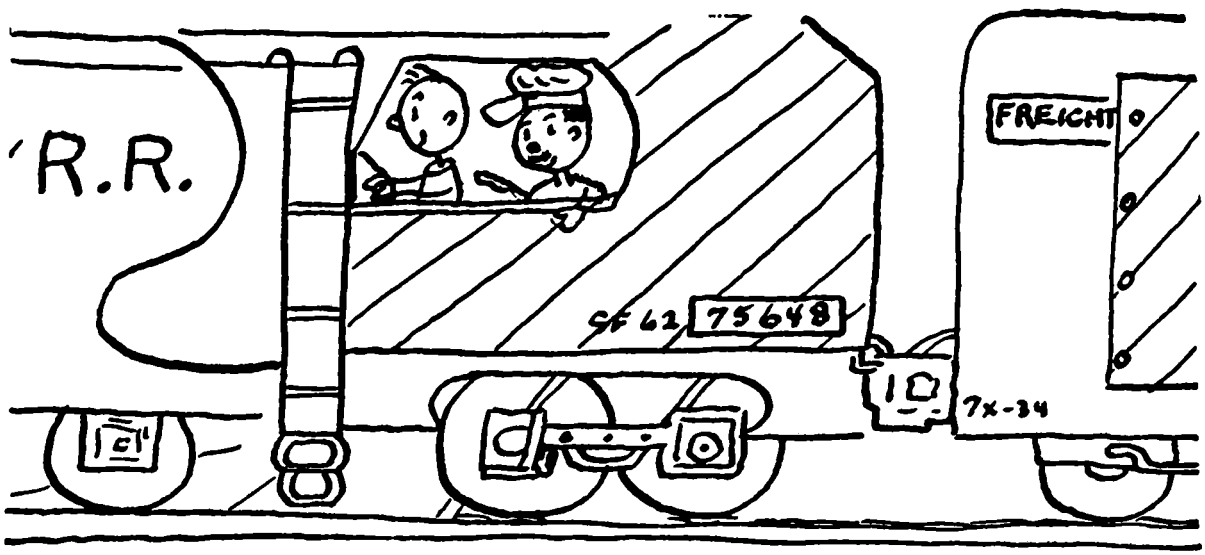
But UGH didn't know what a wheel was. That may surprise you, but when the first white men came to North America and found more than a million Indians living here, not one of the

Indians knew how to use wheels to move things. No SCIENTISTS in UGH's time had thought of a lever or a pulley or a gear or a ball bearing or any of the wonderful tools and machinery that we can see used all around us every day.

UGH's people hadn't even found out yet that they could tame and train certain animals and teach them to pull heavy loads the way that cattle and horses do for some of us.

UGH had once seen a big deer push a small tree over with his horns, so UGH knew that the animal was strong. That night UGH dreamed about what fun it would be to have an animal like that to help him drag logs.



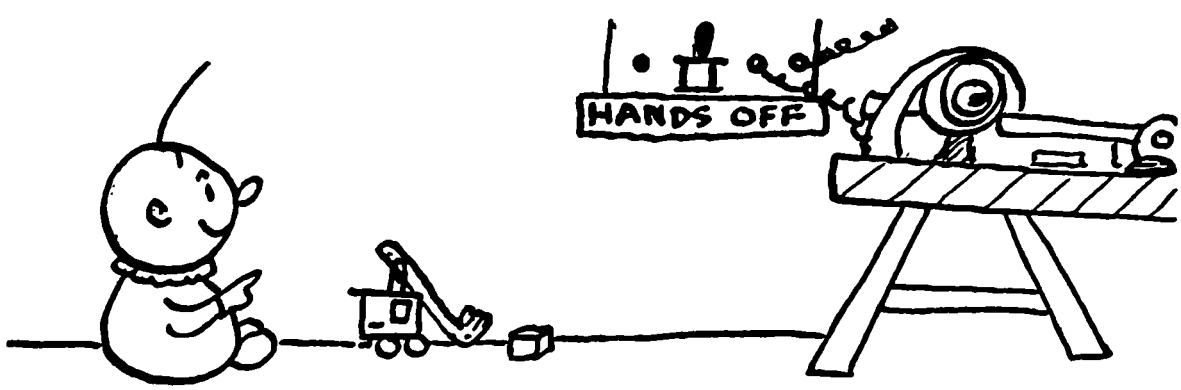


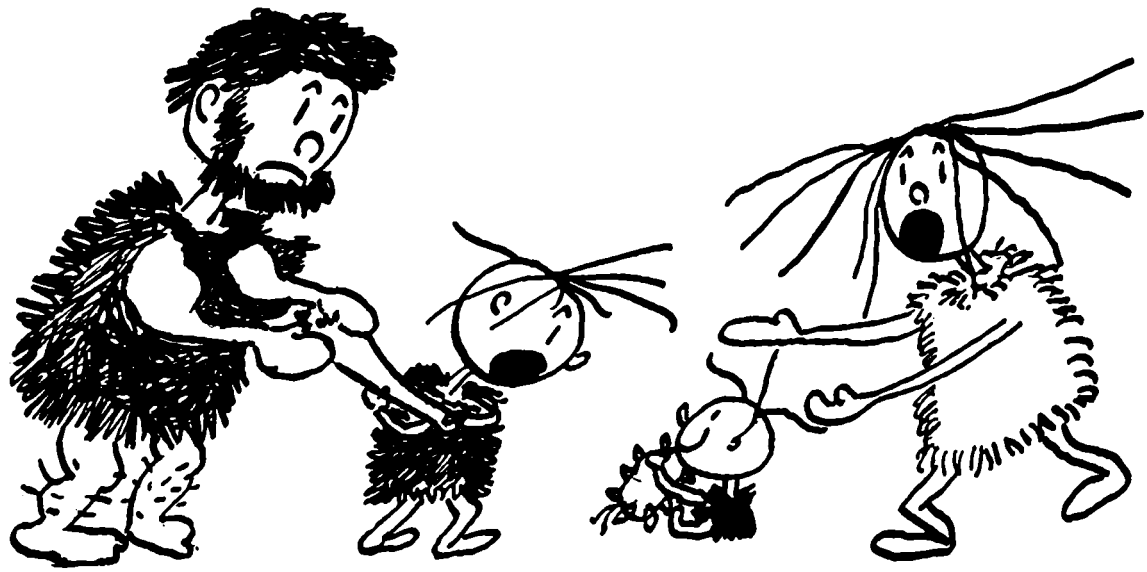
Just think how UGH would feel if he could see YOUNOW doing what he is in the picture up above. A friend of YOUNOW's father is a railroad engineer and he let YOUNOW run a locomotive that pulled a freight train of a hundred loaded cars. All that YOUNOW had to do was push one little button and then move a handle easily and slowly to one side and right away tons and tons of all sorts of things could be pulled for miles and miles.

You can bet that UGH would wish that people in his time had learned to make machines like that.

YOUNOW knows that hardly a day goes by without someone thinking of a new way to make work easier. He watches his mother push a vacuum cleaner over the rugs instead of sweeping and beating them. He often puts the dirty dishes in a dishwasher and then goes to play ball while they are getting cleaner than they would if he washed them by hand. He sees his father walk behind a lawn mower, just steering it while a little gasoline motor does all the real work.

YOUNOW knows that SCIENCE has given us so much power that we have to be careful to use it the right way. Even a baby must learn to respect it.



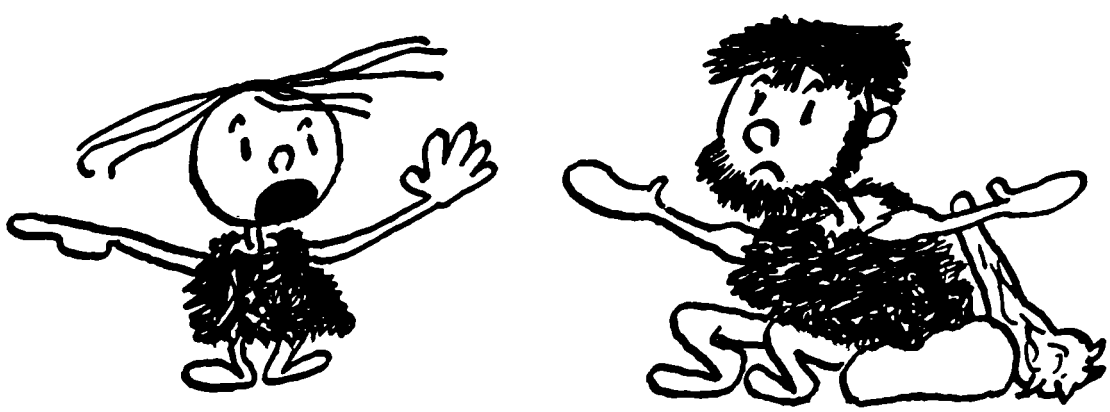


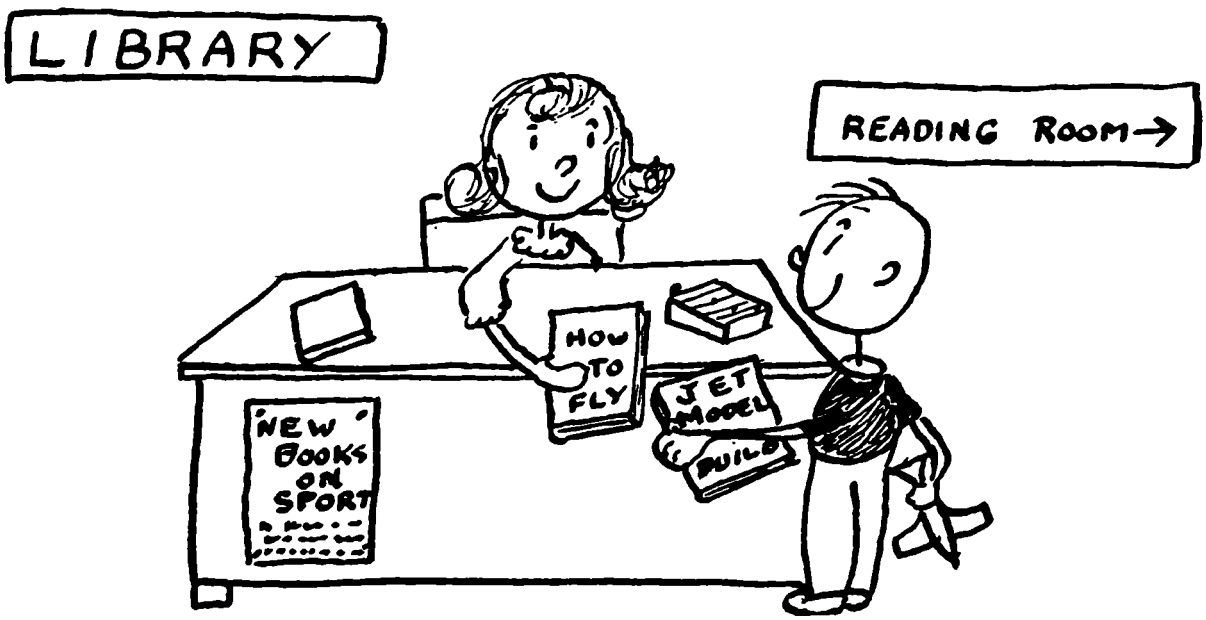
You can hardly believe some of the funny things that happened in UGH's cave home, because people were just finding out that by making certain sounds they could let each other know what they were thinking.

You know, yourself, that sometimes you can say a word and know what it means, but you can't write it because you don't know how to spell it. Well, UGH's family didn't even know how to *say* many words to each other. They just grunted and growled.

In the picture we see UGH's family having a terrible time. UGH's baby sister, named BLUB, started to chew UGH's bear tooth necklace and UGH wanted her to stop. She couldn't understand him and kept on chewing. UGH got so mad, because he didn't know the right words to stop her, that he was going to hit her with the club. His mother didn't know how to tell him it would hurt the baby, so she just screamed. His father had to grab the club because he didn't know what sounds to make to tell UGH to stop.

In the picture below you can see what a hard time UGH had trying to tell his father how many buffaloes he had just seen—because neither of them knew how to count.





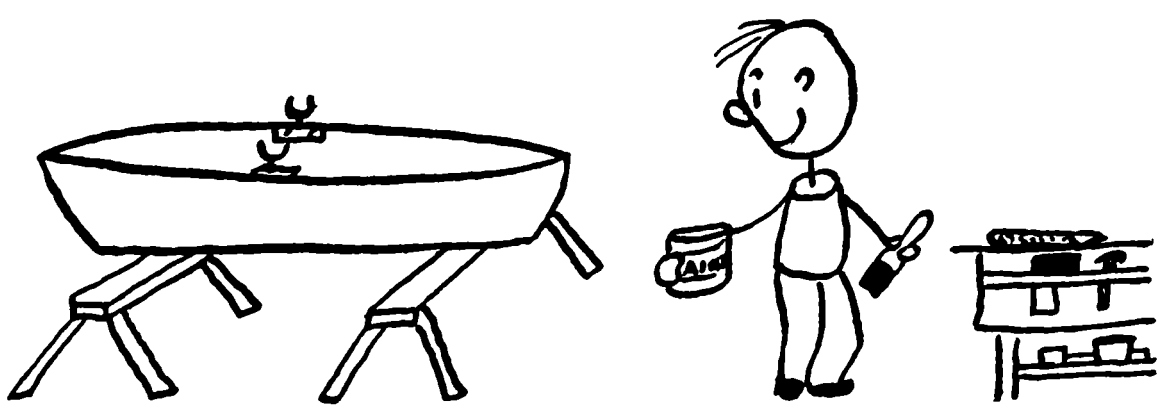
YOUNOW can speak so other people understand what he says and every year that he goes to school he learns how to read and write more and more words. He can go to the library and borrow a book that will tell him how to make a model jet plane.

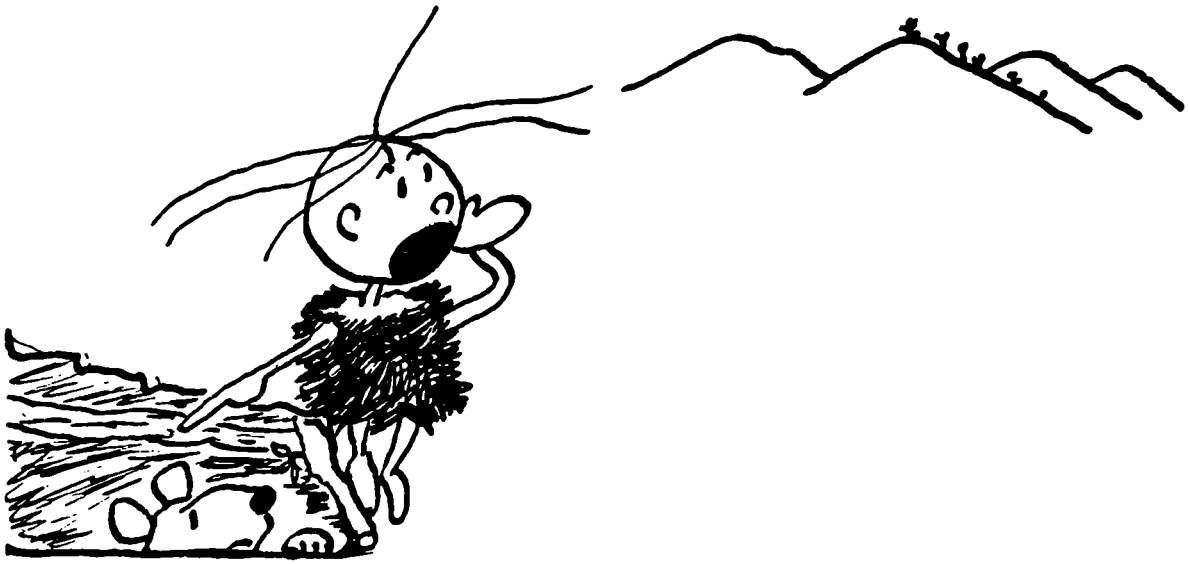
Because we have learned how to read and write, we can get KNOWLEDGE and directions from people we have never even seen or heard speak. First, they write what they want to say, then it is printed in newspapers, magazines and books. Just think how many people can tell YOUNOW what he wants to know once he has learned how to read well.

When he has learned how to use numbers so that they can tell him how much, how many, how far, how high or low or long and deep and wide or heavy anything is—then he will be ready to start being a SCIENTIST himself.

The better any of us learn to use numbers, the better able we are to make new discoveries to help ourselves and others, too.

Last year when YOUNOW wanted to paint his rowboat, he didn't know how much paint to buy, but this year he knew how to measure the size of his boat and could tell the man at the paint store just how large an area he wanted to cover with two coats of paint.





Even if UGH's people had known how to talk to each other easily, just think of the trouble they must have had letting each other know anything when they were far apart. Look at the picture of UGH who is shouting just as loudly as he can. Nobody can hear him. Way off in the distance is UGH's father with some other men. They have been out hunting for a bear, but now they are going home and their caves are miles away.

Well, the bear they were looking for is right near UGH. It fell into a big hole that the men had dug for a trap, and the bear hasn't been able to climb out. If UGH could let his father know where the bear was, they could catch it. But by the time

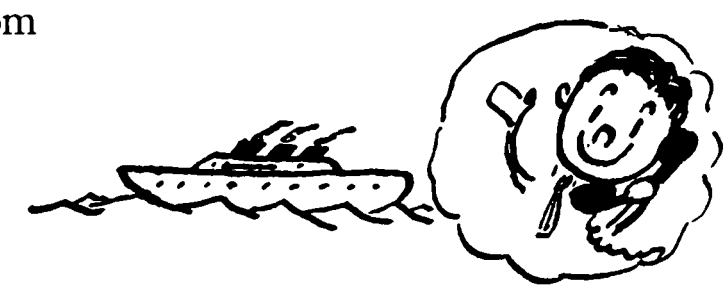
UGH chases after them the bear will probably have climbed out of the trap.

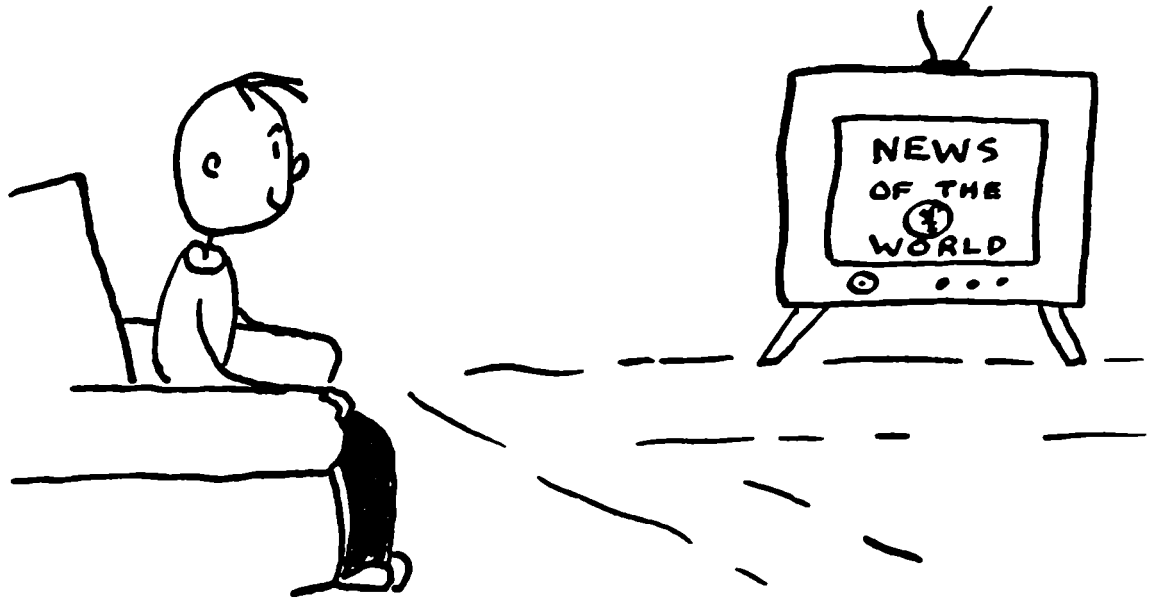
One of the ways that SCIENCE has made our lives much better than UGH's is by letting us tell each other what we want even when we are thousands of miles apart.

Can you guess what UGH is doing in the picture down below? Yes, he is piling stones in a heap, but you would have a hard time guessing why he is doing it. He wants to go see a friend of his, but he is afraid that his mother and father will think he is lost unless he lets them know where he is going. He can't write and leave a note for them, so all along the way to his friend's cave UGH is going to pile rocks to show them where he has gone.

Just think how easy it is for YOUNOW to let people know anything today. If he wants his mother to know where he is going he can make marks on a piece of paper that will talk for him. That's what writing is. Or thanks to SCIENCE, he can telephone from his friend's house and tell her with his own voice. If UGH could have telephoned to his father at the cave, they would have caught the bear. Better yet, suppose he had a "walky talky" telephone like those that are now in use!

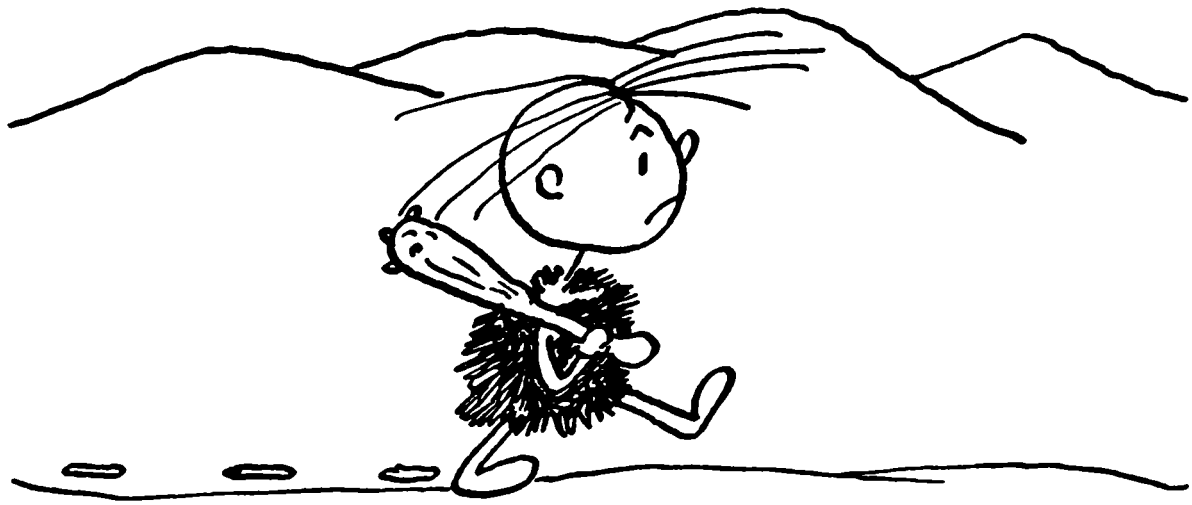
Last summer, on YOUNOW's birthday, his father was on a ship going to Europe. He wanted to wish YOUNOW a "Happy Birthday," and all he had to do was telephone him from the middle of the ocean.





We call the SCIENCE of letting other people know things COMMUNICATIONS, and just think of the many ways we can communicate today—telephone, telegraph, radio, television, teletyping, or we can send a letter. We can see and hear things now that are happening way off in some other part of the world. We can even see pictures of what the earth itself looks like from hundreds of miles out in space by putting cameras that work themselves in rockets.

Men in Alaska can tell us what the weather will be in our home town three days from now. Television can be used for meetings when some of the people are in California and the rest in New York. Doctors can show other doctors all the way across the country how to operate. And in a few years, you will be able to see your friends while you are talking on the telephone, and you will be able to dial for them anywhere in the country.



When our old friend UGH wanted to be in one place instead of another, he had only one way of getting there. That was by doing what we see him doing in the picture:

HE HAD TO WALK

Walking was even harder than it is today, because there were no paved roads or sidewalks. If the weather was bad UGH had to splash through mud or snow and ice. Until people learned how to tame and train animals for riding it meant hard work to go anywhere. If you wanted to take anything heavy with you

like food or extra furs to keep you warm, just think what a bother that must have been. Suppose your family moved to a new home a thousand miles away—you had to walk and carry everything you wanted with you!

Let's suppose that UGH's cave home was near the ocean or a big lake or river. Today we could put ourselves and our things into one of many kinds of boats. Because SCIENTISTS or the right careful, wise thinkers were not there to help him, UGH didn't know that people could use wood and metal to build, and steam and oil to run machines that could carry him and all his family and friends and neighbors for thousands of miles.

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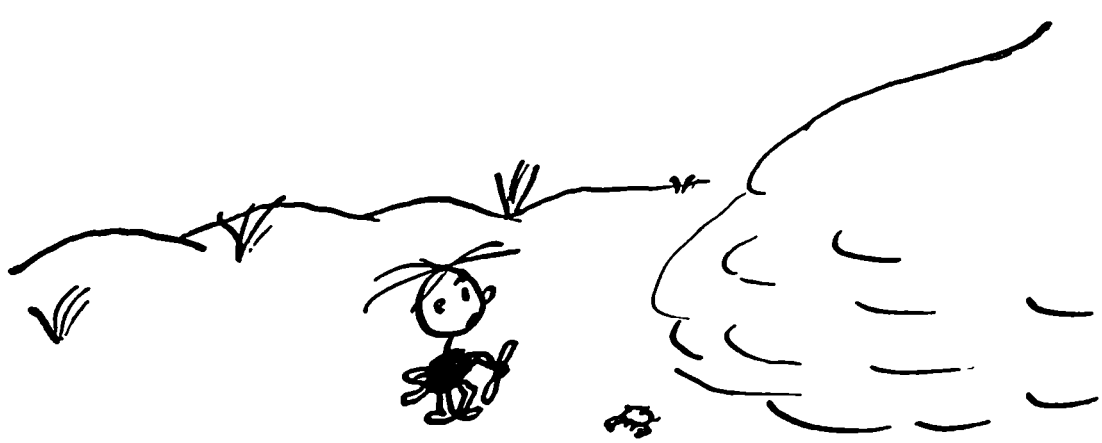
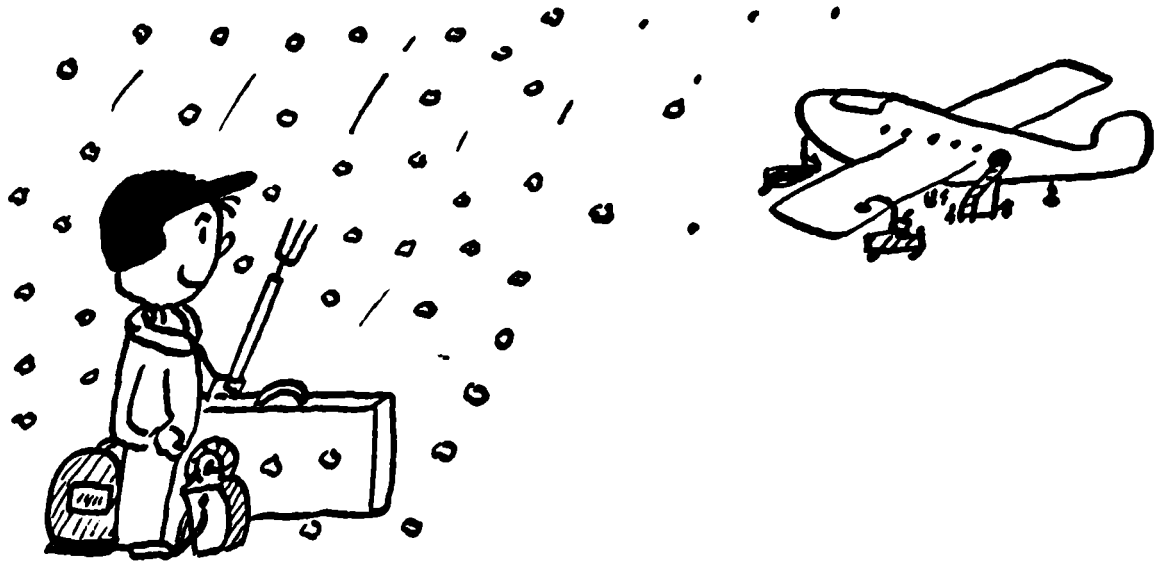




Have a look at YOUNOW waiting at the airport and think how poor old UGH would have liked to be there.

It is winter and snow is falling, but YOUNOW is going to spend two weeks two thousand miles from home in a pleasant place where it will be as warm as it is at home in summer.

He is going to fly in a plane that can go faster than 500 miles in one hour.

He will be there in the time it would have taken UGH to walk a few miles from his cave home. Now YOUNOW is dressed in warm clothes—tomorrow he will be in a bathing suit. When he puts on that helmet and diving machine he is taking

with him, he can travel under water and try to stick fish with his new spear.

When YOUNOW is a few years older he may be able to swish off to Africa in a jet or rocket plane. It will probably take him less time than it now takes him to go from the airport to home in an automobile!

Who knows, six years from now he may go to high school in his own little helicopter. Whether he travels now in an automobile, train, plane or ship he is just as comfortable as if he were at home.

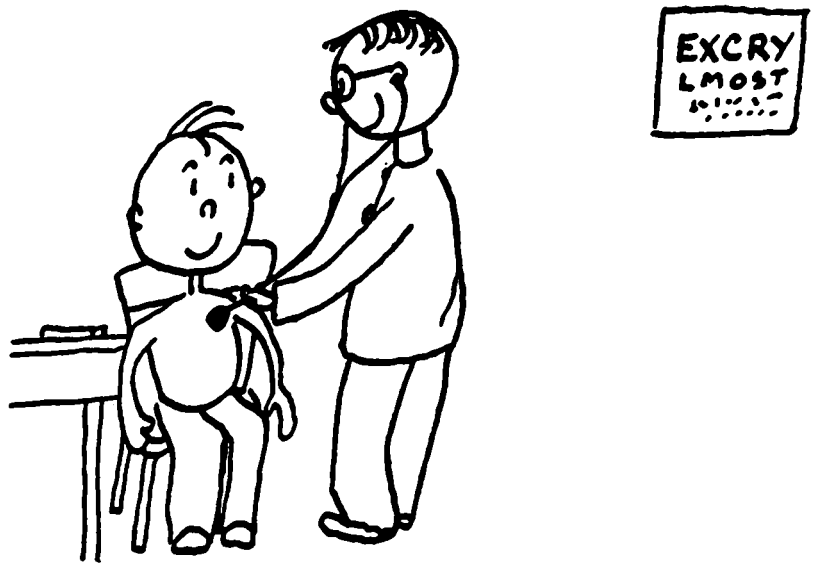
If you will take a peek at UGH in the picture that shows him and his mother when UGH had the measles, maybe you won't squawk so much the next time you have to see the doctor. UGH and his family and friends would have been happier than you can imagine if there had been doctors, nurses, hospitals and medicine to help them when they were sick.

But the SCIENCES that protect our health hadn't been thought of when UGH was a boy.

People didn't live very long in those days and if they were hurt and broke their arms or legs, or ate or drank the wrong things—it was just too bad! Nobody knew how to help them.

UGH's parents were just as sorry for him when he was sick as yours are for you—but they didn't know why he felt awful, and there was nobody they could go to who could tell them what was wrong. To make him feel better, UGH's mother tried to get him to eat a big piece of half-burned bear meat and she put more furs on him, but it didn't help a bit. UGH was lucky to get well at all, but he didn't feel very lucky a few months later when he ate so many green wild apples that he had a pain in his stomach.

A little wild pig sat and laughed at him as if to say, even he would know better than to do that.

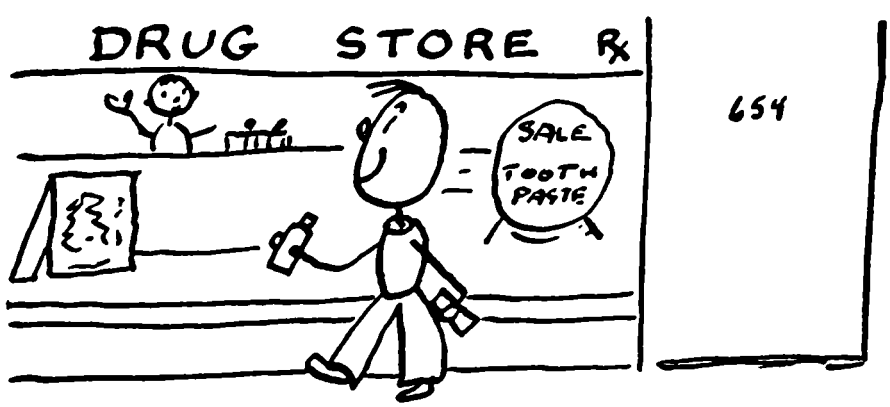


YOUNOW knows very well how much better off he is than was poor UGH. In the first place, he knows about germs that SCIENTISTS found out about not so many years ago. UGH's people had never even heard of germs, so how could we expect them to know that dirt could harm them or that decayed and spoiled food would poison them?

Before YOUNOW was old enough to go to school he had learned how lucky we are to have fresh pure water in our homes along with soap, washcloths, towels and brushes to use to keep clean. His father told him how our sewer systems protect our health and his mother told him why he ate certain foods and drank milk to make his body strong and well.

YOUNOW also found out that if he went to the doctor and dentist they could often help him to keep from being sick, or having bad teeth when he grew up. When YOUNOW does get sick now, he can be taken care of in the right way and his parents know what to do for him. If he should break a bone, SCIENCE has taught us how to fix it, and if YOUNOW has to go to a hospital in a hurry, there are ambulances and even airplanes to carry him there quickly.

If YOUNOW needs medicine to help him feel better, he can get what his doctor wants him to have at a drugstore near his home. YOUNOW is glad that SCIENCE has made his life so much better and safer than UGH's. He often thinks he wants to be a doctor when he grows up.



We know how hard UGH had to work to do even the simplest things, because there was very little SCIENCE to help him and his people.

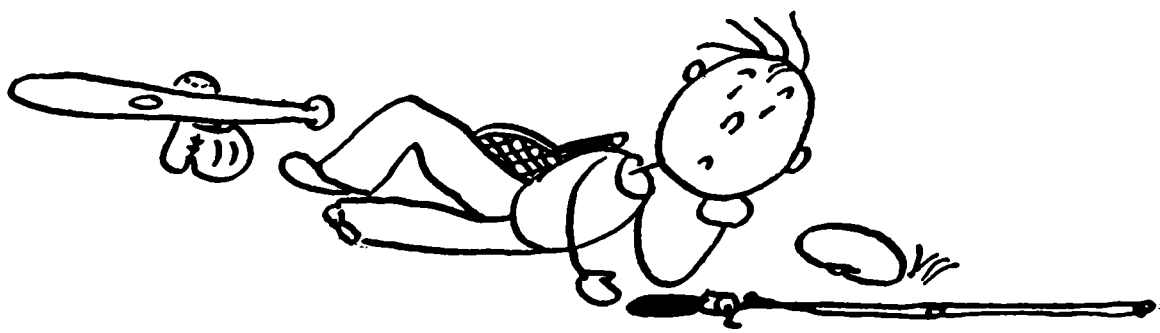
Now let's think for a while of what things he could use to have a good time and to enjoy himself. Of course he could always take a long walk and that can be fun, BUT if you have to walk everywhere for everything and can never ride either a horse or a bike, or can't skate or coast or use a car, or ride in a train, a boat or ship—walking can become sort of tiresome.

He didn't go to school and have any classmates to play with, for the simple reason that there wasn't any school to go to.

No, there really wasn't much you could do in UGH's time except work to stay alive. At night, in the cave if there was wood enough, they might sometimes build a fire and sit around and grunt stories to each other. But they could do this only after they had learned to make sounds they could understand.

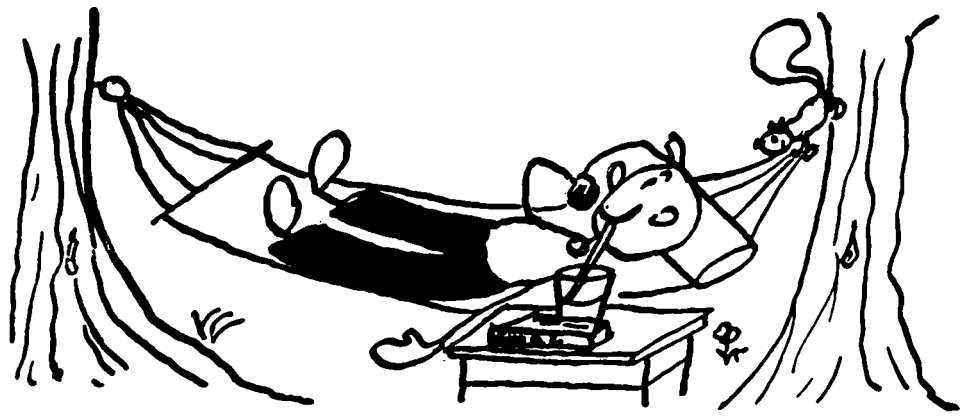
SCIENTISTS who have studied caves, like the one UGH lived in, have found that people in UGH's day sometimes scratched or drew on the walls. Maybe UGH drew with a pointed stick pictures of the animals he had seen. Or, if he felt like making music, he may have beat on a hollow log with a stick. In the daytime, let's hope he had friends and some young wild animal pets to play with.

Sometimes I wonder if we ought not feel as sorry for YOU-NOW as we do for UGH who had almost nothing he could do to have a good time.

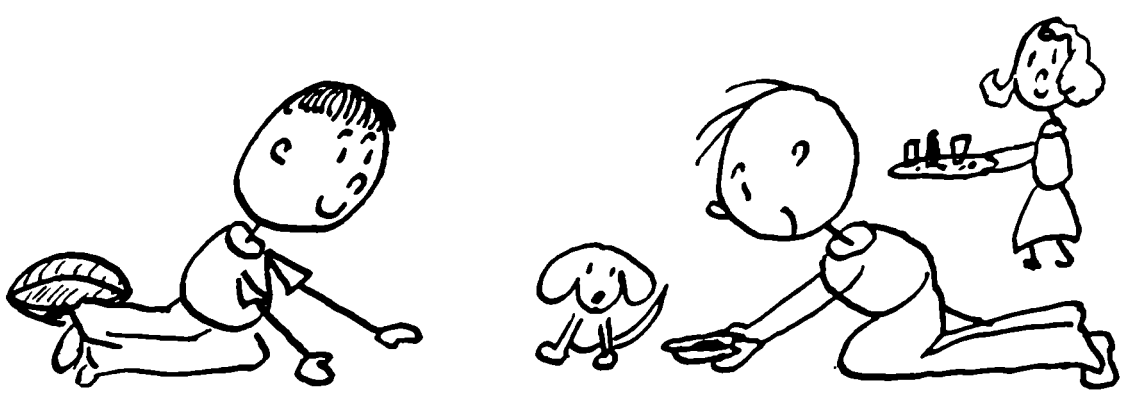


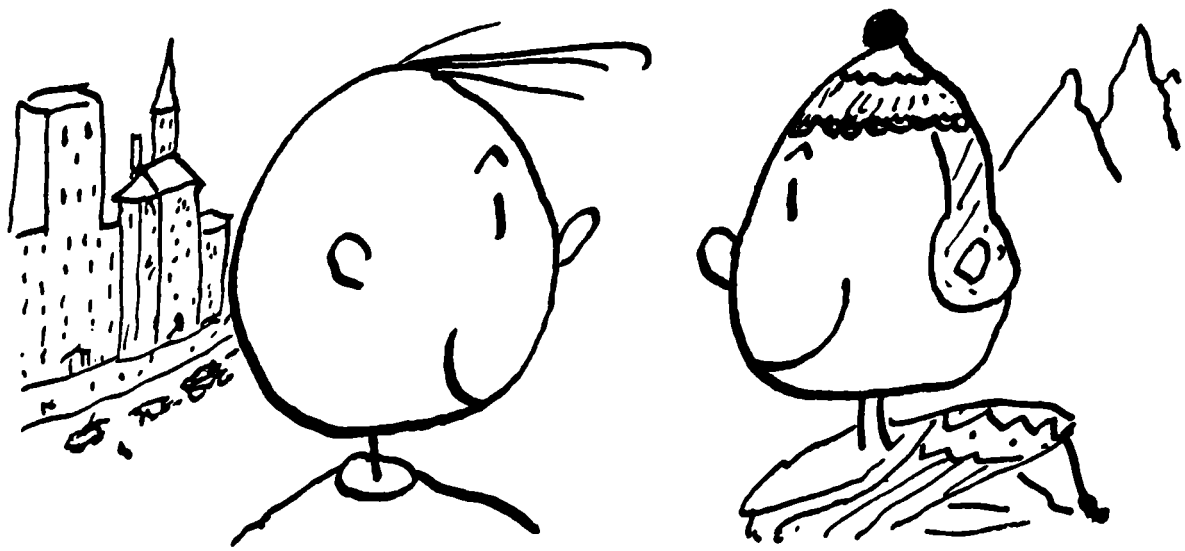
Here is a picture of YOUNOW on a Saturday morning when there isn't any school and he has the whole day to do just what he wants. The trouble with YOUNOW and a lot of the rest of us, is that there are so many different ways that we can enjoy ourselves that we have a hard time trying to decide which thing to do. We have friends we can be with easily, we have sports we can play with all sorts of equipment like balls, gloves, bats, racquets, sticks. We have carriages, sleds, bikes, wagons, scooters, cars and other things to ride.

We can go to watch games of all sorts being played by the best players. We have playgrounds and swimming pools, beaches and ski slopes, boats and roller coasters, merry-go-



rounds and rifle ranges. We can fish, hunt, swim and dive and if the weather is too bad for any of these, we can go into comfortable houses or other buildings and do hundreds of other things. We can go to museums, planetariums, art galleries, theaters and movies. We can play or listen to music. We have pianos and all sorts of instruments and radios and phonographs. We have libraries full of books. We have television sets. We have pets and good friends, and families that can be the best fun of all.

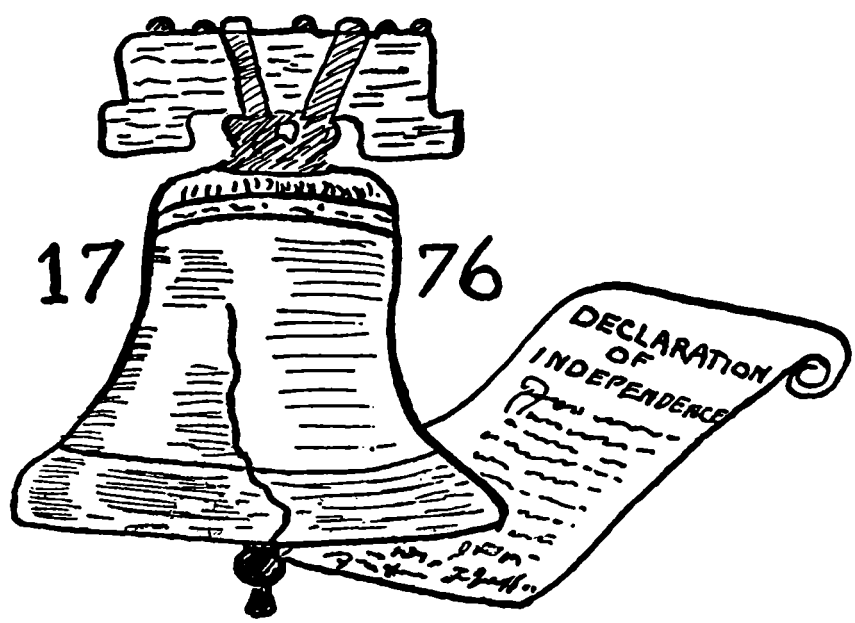




Of course the most important SCIENCE of all is—KNOWING HOW TO GET ALONG WELL TOGETHER.

It doesn't do any of us much good to have great inventions and machines or great forces like atomic energy under our control—if we can't find pleasant ways to live together and enjoy the wonderful things in the world.

When the people of our country, the United States, first planned how they would try to live together, they said that they believed that we were all born equal and we each had a right to live, to be free, and to try to be happy. By sharing with each other what we have known and learned, we have become one of the greatest nations on earth. We can enjoy life and liberty more than almost any other people we know. This has happened because our boys and girls in the past and now have been able to learn how to use the things in the world. Learning these truths has helped us to have better lives.



Who knows? Maybe you will someday help to make your country and the whole world a better place.

You have your chance—and that is why we call this book—

LUCKY YOU